

## FOR YOUNG FOLKS



### SOME ODD NESTS.

Ingenuity Displayed by Some Birds in Providing Places for Their Young.

There was a time many millions of years ago, when birds built no nests, but did as some specimens are doing at the present time, when the ostrich continues to lay her eggs in the sand of the desert to have the hatching done by the rays of the sun. The Tulewren of New Holland also follows the old custom of covering up the earth with feathers in the manner so that the eggs may be hatched by the heat engendered by decomposition. On account of the temperature of the earth having become gradually colder and because eggs have no warmth of their own, the birds later on were compelled to cover the mounds dug in eggs with decayed vegetable matter,



THE SALANGANE.

of the elder duck that builds a regular bed of down.

During the next period the nests became not only the hatching place of eggs, but were also used by the birds for habitation. Special care is used in selecting a place for the nest, or else it is built in such a manner that it may form a protection against attacks of enemies. So the nest of the moor hen is built in the crevices near the water's edge, and it has been noted that in case the nest in one year was endangered by inundation, the bird selected a higher spot the next year in which to build his nest.

The birds have even become artists. The tailor bird of South America makes his nest by sewing together a



THE MOOR HEN.

leaf. He bores holes with his beak and pulls a thread from bark through the holes, thereby sewing the leaf together into the form of a bag. The magpie fixes the nest with earth, as does the swallow, the nest of the latter bird having so small an opening that the bird is hardly able to enter it.

An artful bird is the South American potter bird, says the Brooklyn Eagle. It builds the nest on the heavy branches of a tree or near the roof of a house. The material of the nest, that nearly weighs up to ten pounds, is mud and clay, the rear room to be used for habitation.

The salangane, a bird like our swallow, builds its nest from its own



THE POTTER BIRD.

branches of a tree or near the roof room. These saliva nests are being sent from Australia and Java to be used in making bird nest soup.

Many birds weave their nest from bark, shaping the nests like bags of every description. The habit of the magpie to have its nests decorated with stolen glittering pieces of metal is well known, and a kind of nightingale, living in the Mediterranean countries, uses skins of snakes for the decoration of its nest.

The Australian chlamydera builds two nests, one a plain one of twigs for habitation, and another lined with green grasses and the floor covered with little stones. This nest, about three feet high, is the so-called "wedding house."

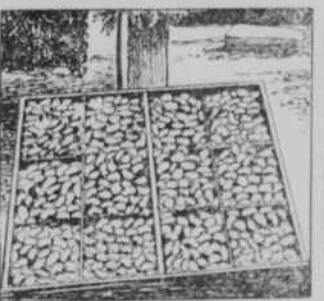
## FARM AND GARDEN



### MARKETING LIMA BEANS.

Some of the Things to Remember in Order to Best Dispose of the Crop.

August is the month for heavy production of lima beans. They continue to bear, however, till the first hard killing frost. The amount and length of profitable bearing depends largely upon keeping the vines picked clean and not allowing pods to get dead ripe, for the ripened seed of any kind takes most vital substance out of the plant and causes it to die. Besides the beans when not quite ripe losing the highest prices. The time to pick the pods is when they show faint traces of light green to yellow. After the pod be-



TRAY OF LIMA BEANS READY FOR MARKET.

comes yellow, the beans inside are ripe, turn white and are then considered "dry" beans. White ones mixed with the green damage the selling price from a few cents to half their value per quart.

On the market lima beans are sold by the quart, hence the best pack is the ordinary 16 or 24 quart berry crate. Real early beans often sell better in pint boxes, as the price is so high that customers of the retail stores do not want as many as a full quart. The peck market basket is another package used, six to ten quarts being put in each basket with a covering of green netting to enhance the greenness of the beans.

Many beans cannot be shipped in bulk, because they heat the easiest of all vegetables, and heating results in souring, sprouting, mildew, spotting and decay. Although itself green and full of water, the lima bean must be absolutely free from outside moisture when packed for shipment, says Farm, Field and Fireside. Nor must the package in any way get wet, or a total loss will result inside of 12 hours. A novice in the business often blames the express company or commission merchant for the spoiling of his goods, and consequent loss of return, when it is his own fault in allowing the beans to be packed in a damp condition.

Shelling, as well as picking, must be done by hand. Shelling is the more tedious process. A good sheller can shell eight to 12 quarts per hour. One and a half to two cents per quart is usually the price for shelling, children most often doing the work, although the supervision of a competent grown person is necessary at all times.

If for any reason the beans after being shelled are damp, they should be placed for an hour or more before packing on a clean cloth, or some other clean, absorbing substance, in the open air—but not in the sun. This is to dry the outer surfaces. They should be spread not more than an inch deep and rolled from side to side every few minutes to secure even drying. The cloth will absorb a part of the moisture and the air rest. Usually, however, no such drying process is necessary.

### SEEDING PASTURES.

How One Man Handled His Land After Prairie Grasses Had Been Fed Out.

My experience is not very extensive, but I will say that I seeded a prairie pasture after the prairie grasses had been fed out, with one part timothy, one part red top and one part blue grass. I found that the timothy and blue grass took good on the high ground and the red top took best on the low ground. I found, too, that after about three years the blue grass had crowded everything else out, even the weeds to a certain extent. It takes blue grass about two years to get a good start. But the red top did fine on low ground the first year. If I were going to seed a pasture for cattle, horses and sheep, especially if the land had been under cultivation, I should sow two parts red top, one part timothy and one part blue grass, and on low lands I would put one part timothy and one part red top, for the reason red top does best on low ground. I find in my pastures on the high, dry knolls that in June and July, when the weather is hot and the sun is hot, these knolls dry out and give little or no feed, hence my reason for sowing red top on the for stock during the driest part of the season, and, too, there is always a heavy growth around the sloughs or low places that make fine grazing during the winter months when it is not covered with snow. Now, continues the correspondent of Farmers' Review, my reason for sowing timothy and clover is that the clover helps to shade the timothy and blue grass after the harvest has been taken off, and it also helps to fill out the stand until the timothy and blue grass get a good start.

### SOME VERY QUICK THINGS

Among Them The Thoughts of the Dozing Dreamer Is the Head "Skidoer."

A flash of light is not sluggish, sound travels rapidly, a bullet is no messenger boy, and an automobile which shoots a mile in 25 seconds is moving along, certainly. When it comes to getting over the ground in a real hurry, however, to devouring distances in dead earnest, says the Providence Journal, the dreamer marches proudly at the head of the procession. He makes the latest thing in the line of 150-horse power racing cars look like hay carts in a mud bank. A man sits in his chair after dinner and dozes; he awakes with a start and discovers, to his surprise, that he lost consciousness for exactly three minutes by the clock. Yet in those three minutes he journeyed from New York to Port Said, transferred himself to St. Petersburg, loitered in Paris and London and sailed up the Nile. What is of greater importance in this connection, he journeyed leisurely, almost indolently; he stopped at various "points of interest"

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